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MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE
OFFICIAL GUIDEBOOK

TRANSFORMERS ENERGON™

THE TRANSFORMERS' OFFICIAL GUIDEBOOKS ARE BACK!

DW

FEBRUARY

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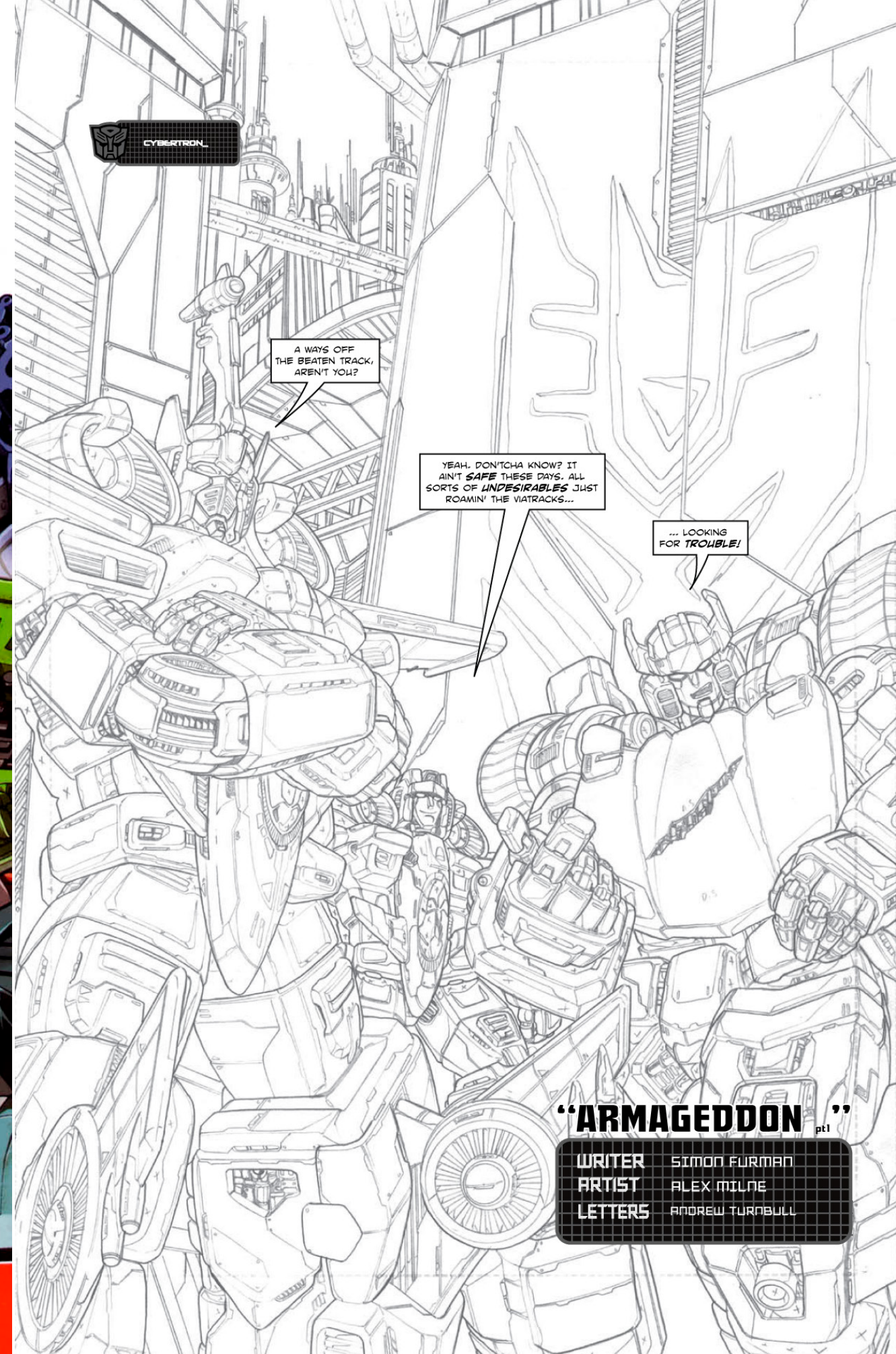
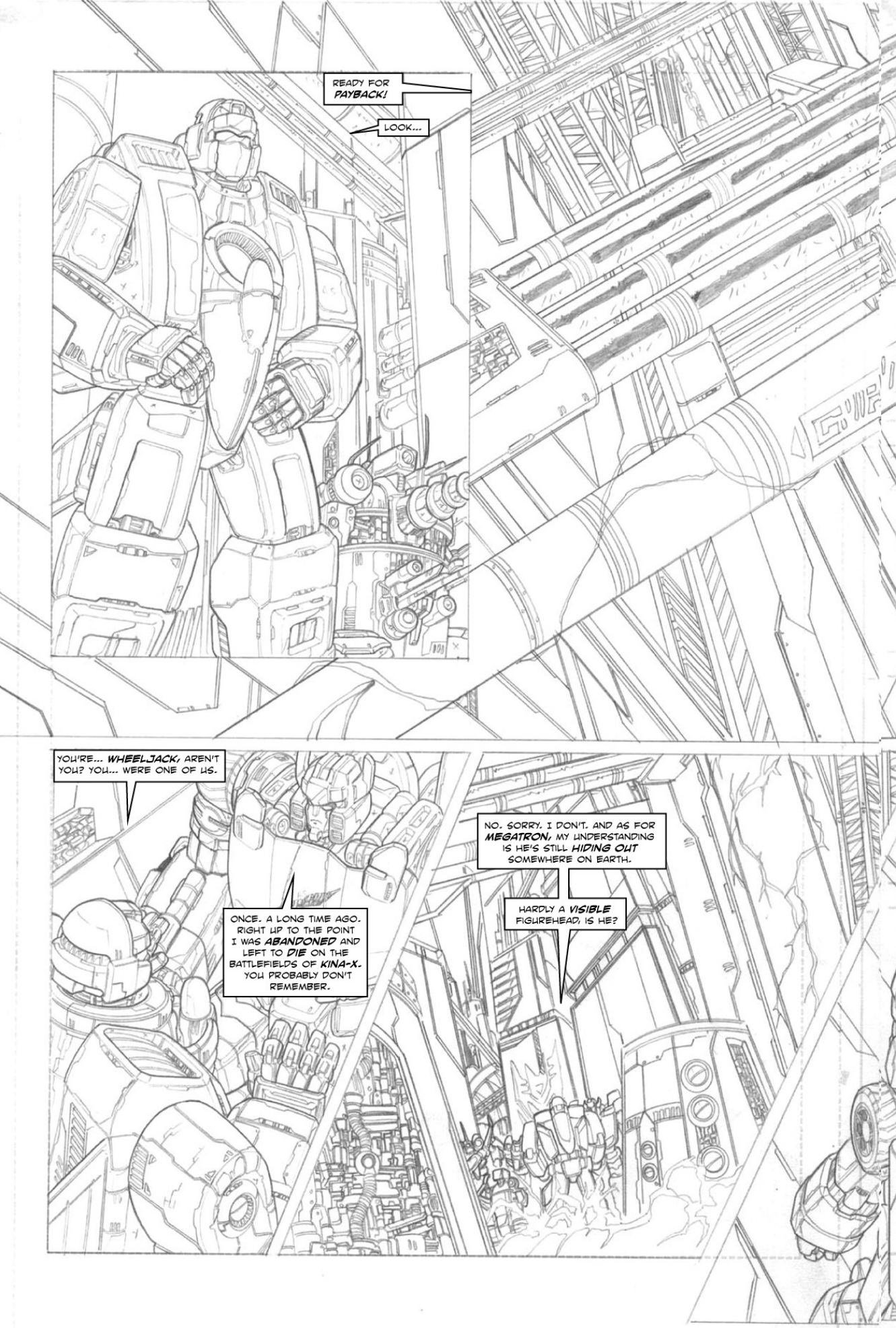
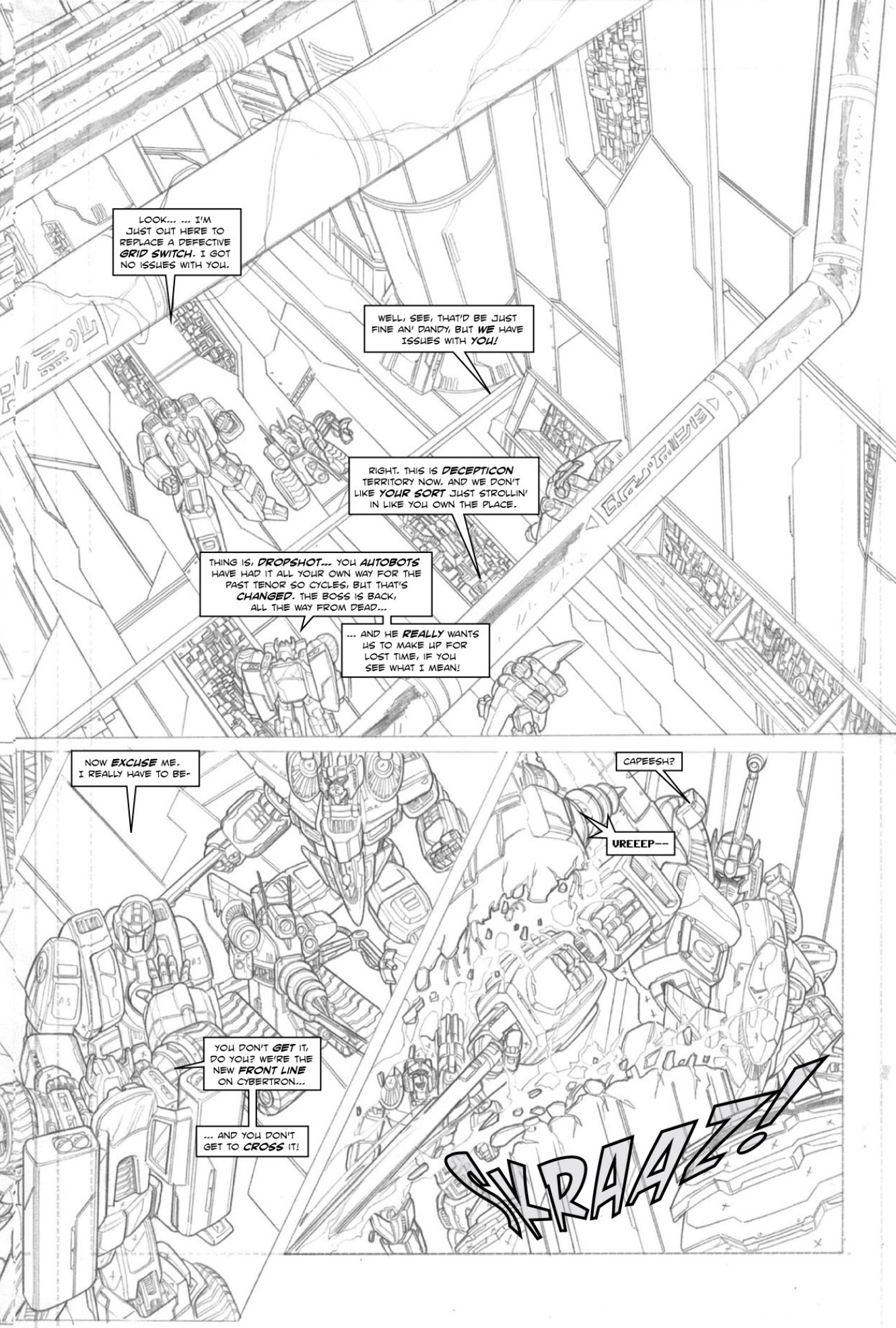
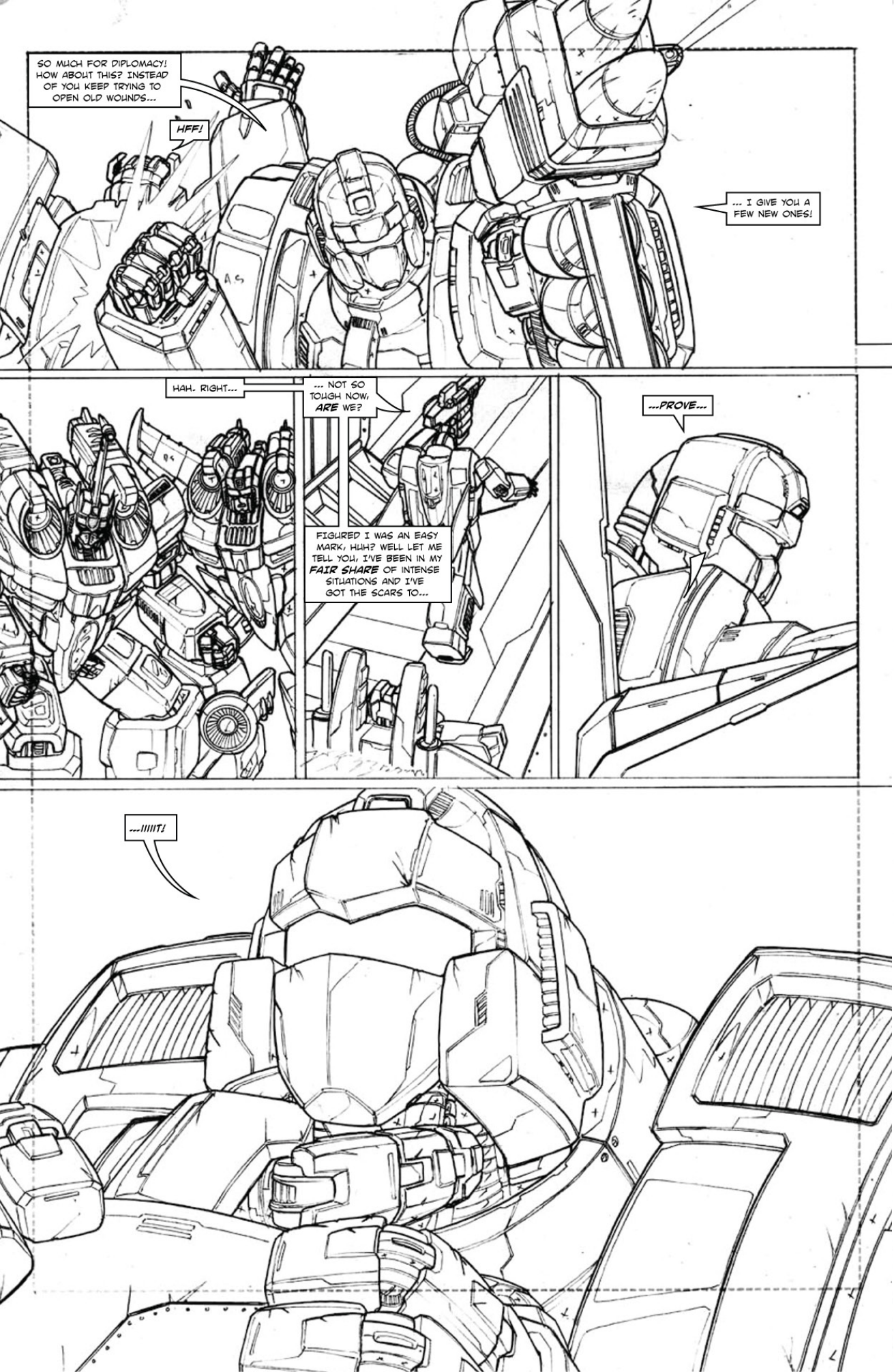
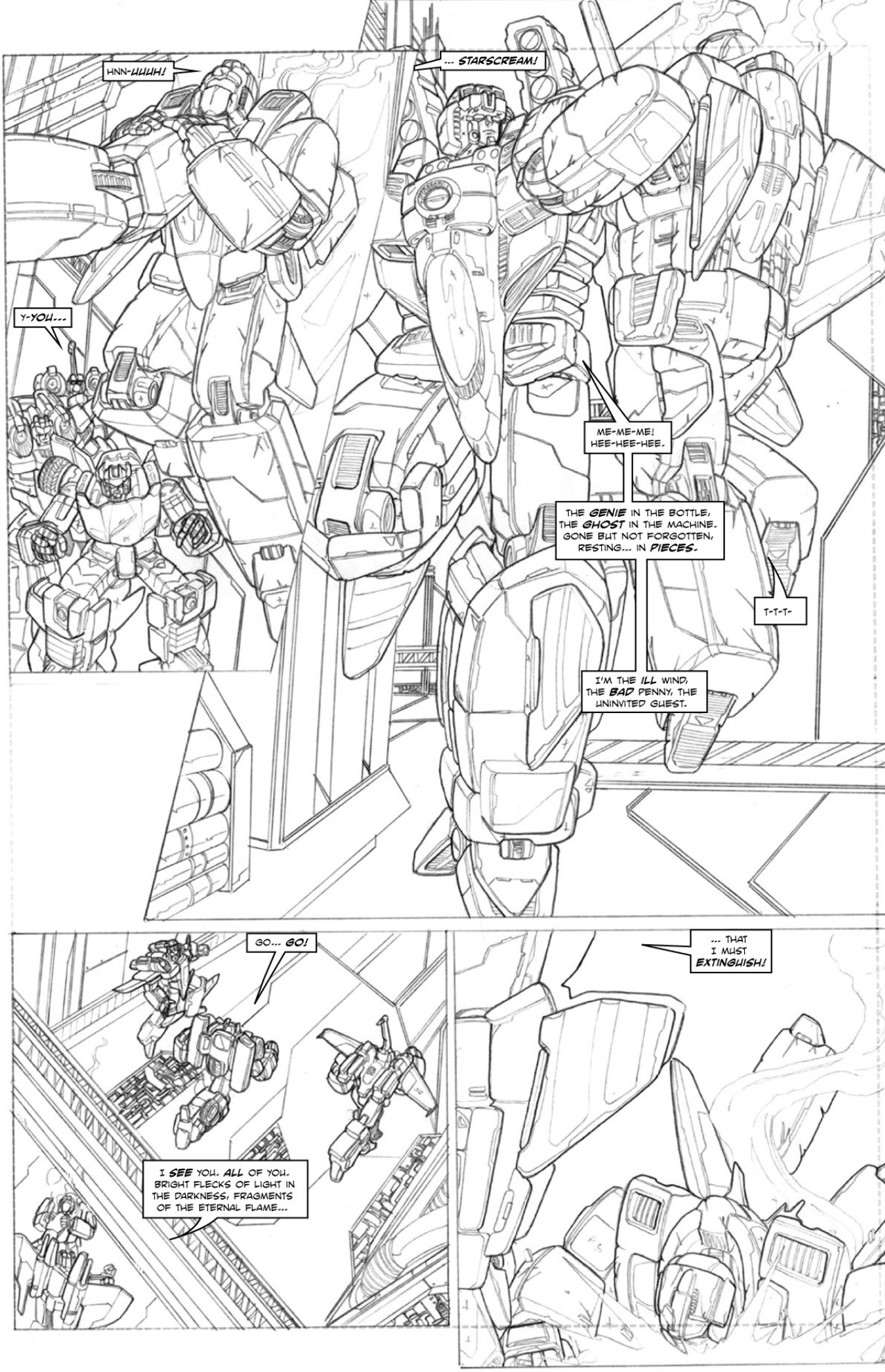
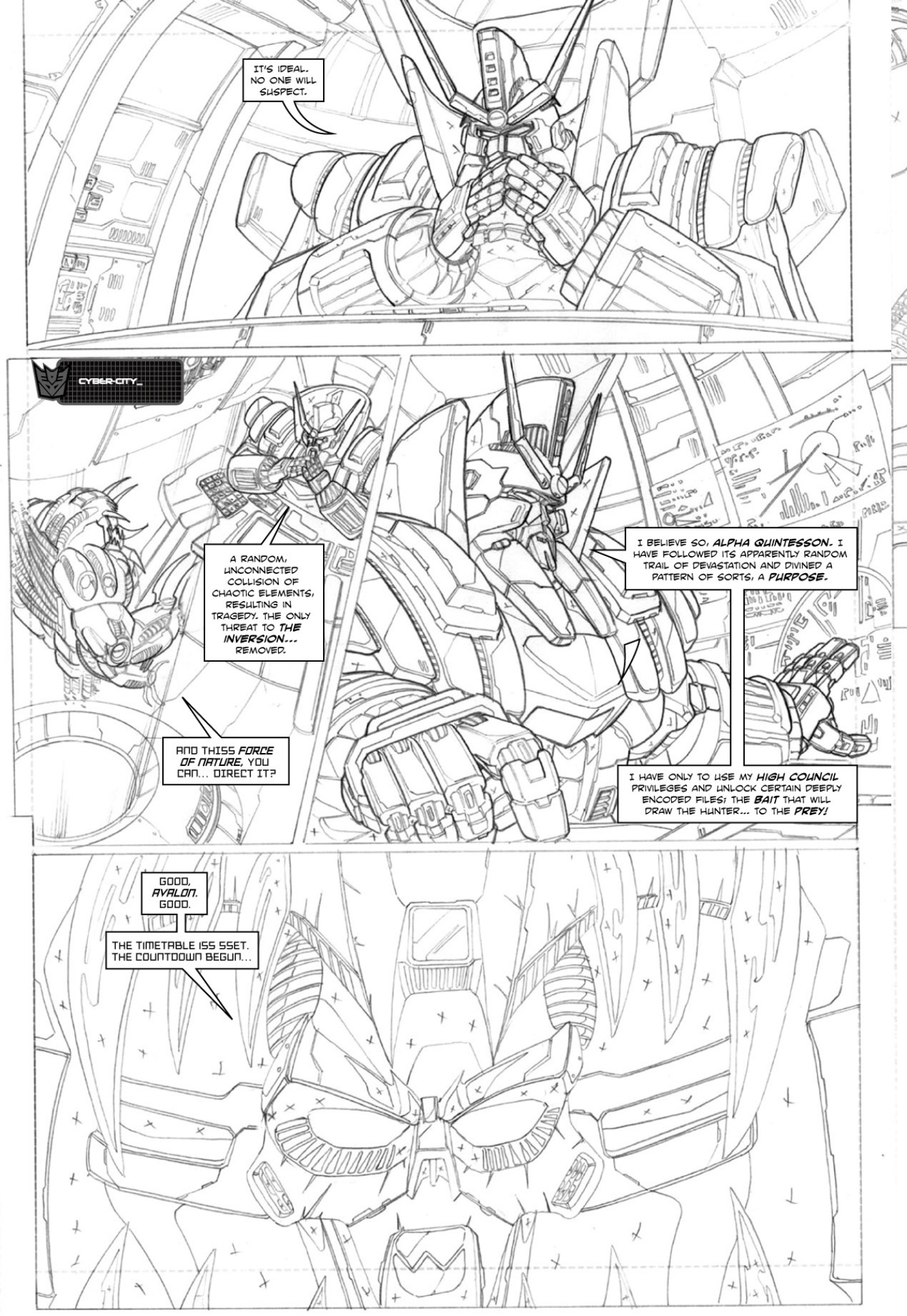

CYBERTRON...
A WAYS OFF THE BEATEN TRACK, AREN'T YOU?
YEAH. DON'TCHA KNOW? IT AIN'T SAFE THESE DAYS. ALL SORTS OF UNDESIRABLES JUST ROAMIN' THE VIATRACKS...
... LOOKING FOR TROUBLE!
"ARMAGEDDON pt1"
WRITER SIMON FURMAN
ARTIST ALEX MILNE
LETTERS ANDREW TURNBULL

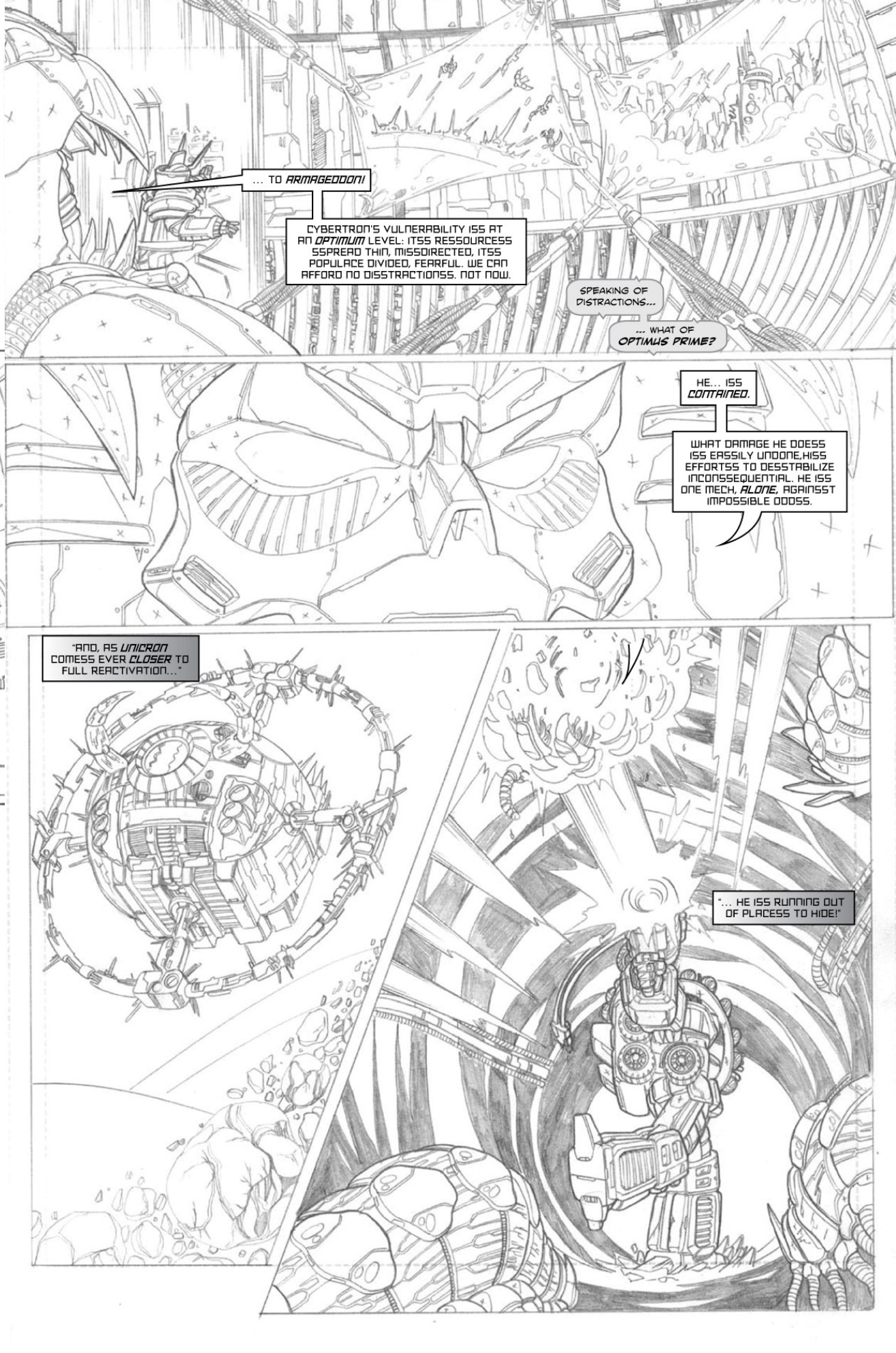

READY FOR PAYBACK!
LOOK...
YOU'RE... WHEELJACK, AREN'T YOU? YOU... WERE ONE OF US.
ONCE. A LONG TIME AGO. RIGHT UP TO THE POINT I WAS ABANDONED AND LEFT TO DIE ON THE BATTLEFIELDS OF KINA-X. YOU PROBABLY DON'T REMEMBER.
NO. SORRY. I DON'T. AND AS FOR MEGATRON, MY UNDERSTANDING IS HE'S STILL HIDING OUT SOMEWHERE ON EARTH.
HARDLY A VISIBLE FIGUREHEAD, IS HE?


LOOK... ... I'M JUST OUT HERE TO REPLACE A DEFECTIVE GRID SWITCH. I GOT NO ISSUES WITH YOU.
WELL, SEE, THAT'D BE JUST FINE AN' DANDY, BUT WE HAVE ISSUES WITH YOU!
RIGHT. THIS IS DECEPTICON TERRITORY NOW. AND WE DON'T LIKE YOUR SORT JUST STROLLIN' IN LIKE YOU OWN THE PLACE.
THING IS, DROPSHOT... YOU AUTOBOTS HAVE HAD IT ALL YOUR OWN WAY FOR THE PAST TENOR SO CYCLES, BUT THAT'S CHANGED. THE BOSS IS BACK, ALL THE WAY FROM DEAD...
... AND HE REALLY WANTS US TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME, IF YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN!
NOW EXCUSE ME. I REALLY HAVE TO BE-
CAPEESH?
VREEEP--
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU? WE'RE THE NEW FRONT LINE ON CYBERTRON...
... AND YOU DON'T GET TO CROSS IT!
SKRAAZ!

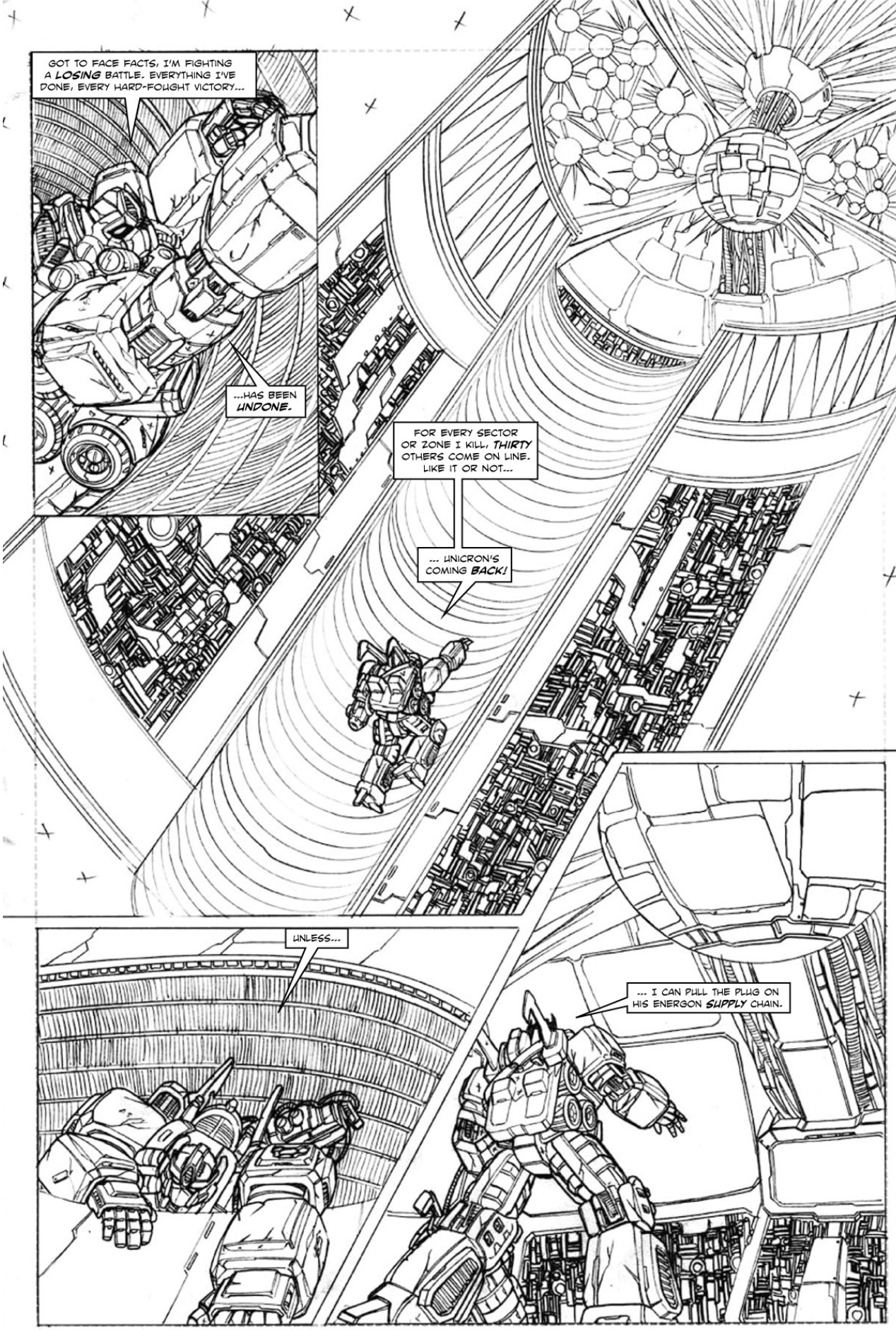

SO MUCH FOR DIPLOMACY! HOW ABOUT THIS? INSTEAD OF YOU KEEP TRYING TO OPEN OLD WOUNDS...
HFF!
... I GIVE YOU A FEW NEW ONES!
HAH. RIGHT...
... NOT SO TOUGH NOW, ARE WE?
FIGURED I WAS AN EASY MARK, HUH? WELL LET ME TELL YOU, I'VE BEEN IN MY FAIR SHARE OF INTENSE SITUATIONS AND I'VE GOT THE SCARS TO...
...PROVE...
...!!!!!IT!

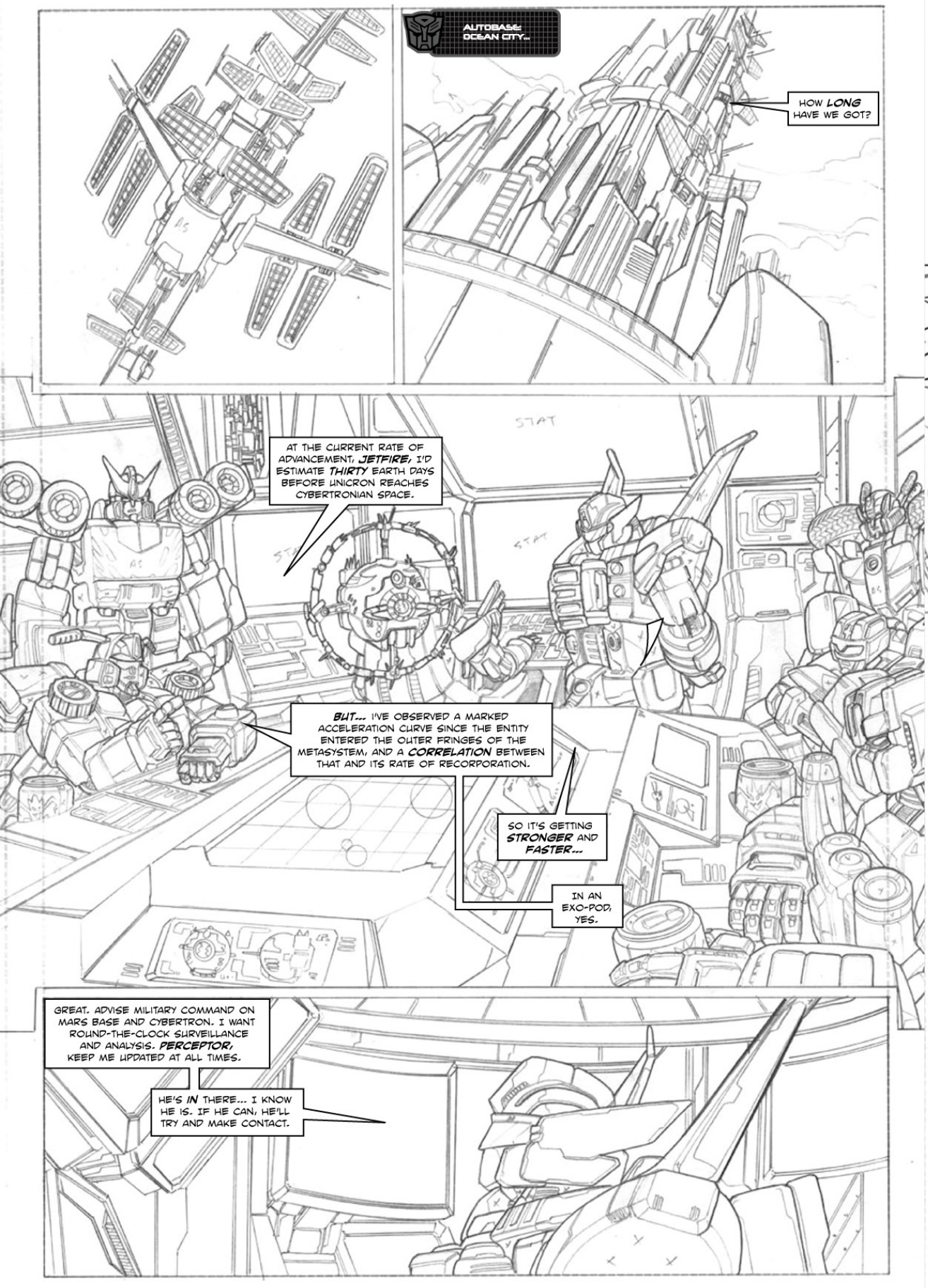

HNN-UUUH!
... STARSCREAM!
Y-YOU...
ME-ME-ME! HEE-HEE-HEE.
THE GENIE IN THE BOTTLE, THE GHOST IN THE MACHINE. GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN, RESTING... IN PIECES.
T-T-T-
I'M THE ILL WIND, THE BAD PENNY, THE UNINVITED GUEST.
GO... GO!
I SEE YOU. ALL OF YOU. BRIGHT FLECKS OF LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS, FRAGMENTS OF THE ETERNAL FLAME...
... THAT I MUST EXTINGUISH!

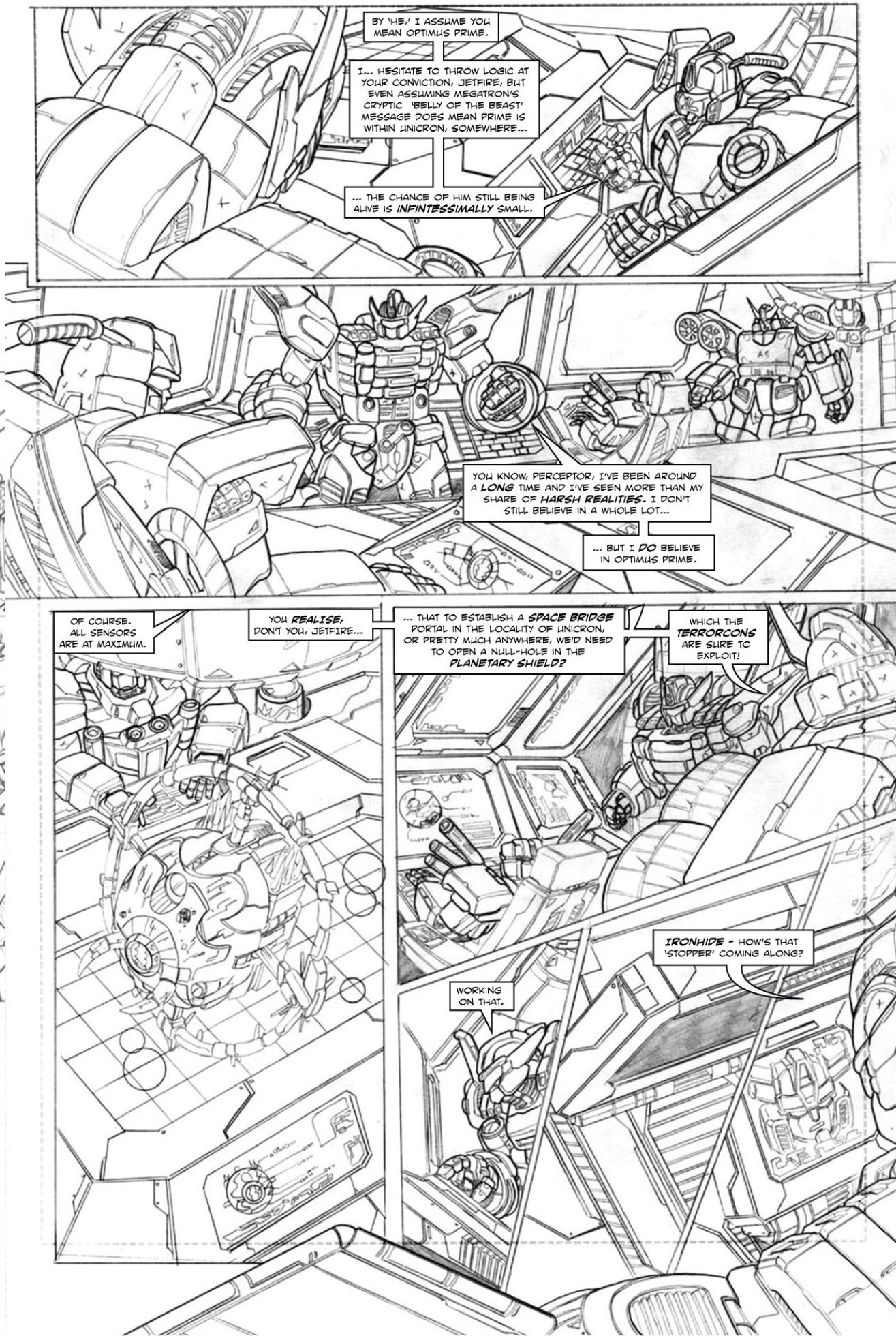

IT'S IDEAL. NO ONE WILL SUSPECT.
CYBER-CITY_
A RANDOM, UNCONNECTED COLLISION OF CHAOTIC ELEMENTS, RESULTING IN TRAGEDY. THE ONLY THREAT TO THE INVERSION... REMOVED.
I BELIEVE SO, ALPHA QUINTESSON. I HAVE FOLLOWED ITS APPARENTLY RANDOM TRAIL OF DEVASTATION AND DIVINED A PATTERN OF SORTS, A PURPOSE.
AND THISS FORCE OF NATURE, YOU CAN... DIRECT IT?
I HAVE ONLY TO USE MY HIGH COUNCIL PRIVILEGES AND UNLOCK CERTAIN DEEPLY ENCODED FILES; THE BAIT THAT WILL DRAW THE HUNTER... TO THE PREY!
GOOD, AVALON. GOOD.
THE TIMETABLE ISS SSET. THE COUNTDOWN BEGUN...

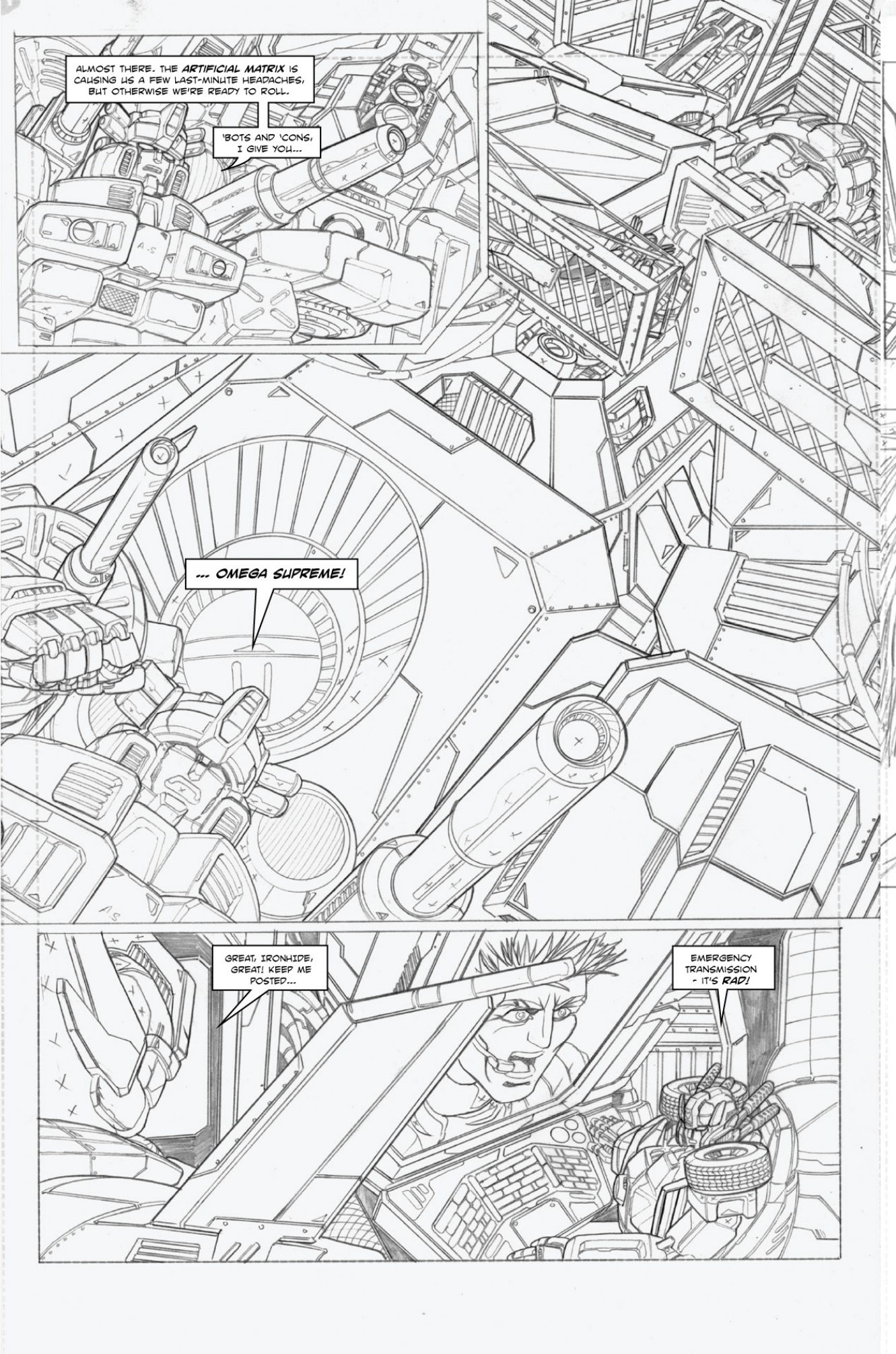

... TO ARMAGEDDON!
CYBERTRON'S VULNERABILITY ISS AT AN OPTIMUM LEVEL: ITSS RESSOURCESS SSPREAD THIN, MISSDIRECTED, ITSS POPULACE DIVIDED, FEARFUL. WE CAN AFFORD NO DISSTRACTIONSS. NOT NOW.
SPEAKING OF DISTRACTIONS...
... WHAT OF OPTIMUS PRIME?
HE... ISS CONTAINED.
WHAT DAMAGE HE DOESS ISS EASSILY UNDONE,HISS EFFORTSS TO DESSTABILIZE INCONSSEQUENTIAL. HE ISS ONE MECH, ALONE, AGAINSST IMPOSSIBLE ODDSS.
"AND, AS UNICRON COMESS EVER CLOSER TO FULL REACTIVATION..."
"... HE ISS RUNNING OUT OF PLACESS TO HIDE!"

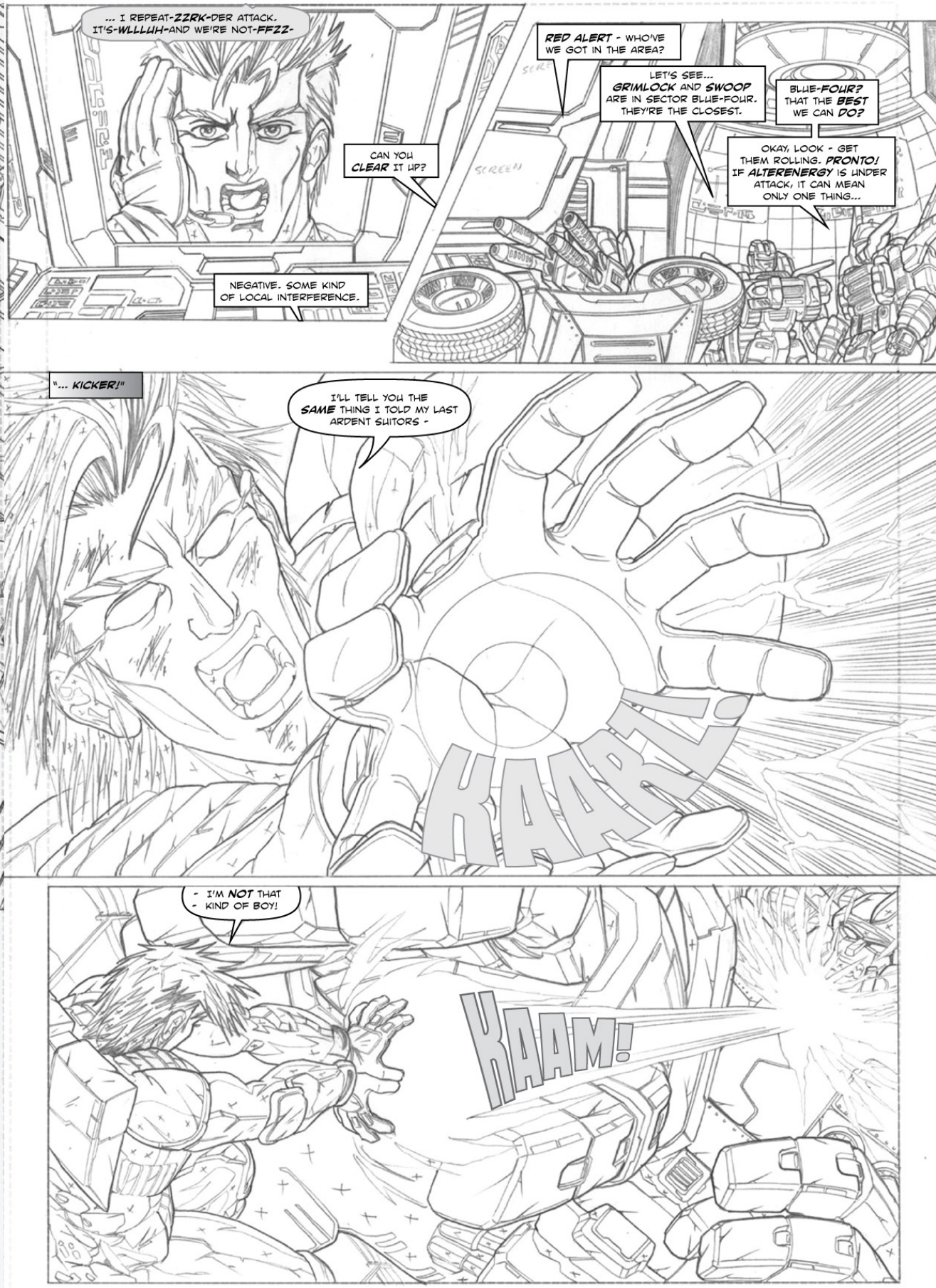
HM. GUESS I CLIMB.
ONE CONSTANT, I SUPPOSE, IN THIS TWISTED WORLD...
... NOTHING'S EASY.
VAASH!


GOT TO FACE FACTS, I'M FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE. EVERYTHING I'VE DONE, EVERY HARD-FOUGHT VICTORY...
...HAS BEEN UNDONE.
FOR EVERY SECTOR OR ZONE I KILL, THIRTY OTHERS COME ON LINE. LIKE IT OR NOT...
... UNICRON'S COMING BACK!
UNLESS...
... I CAN PULL THE PLUG ON HIS ENERGON SUPPLY CHAIN.


AUTOBASE: OCEAN CITY...
HOW LONG HAVE WE GOT?
AT THE CURRENT RATE OF ADVANCEMENT, JETFIRE, I'D ESTIMATE THIRTY EARTH DAYS BEFORE UNICRON REACHES CYBERTRONIAN SPACE.
BUT... I'VE OBSERVED A MARKED ACCELERATION CURVE SINCE THE ENTITY ENTERED THE OUTER FRINGES OF THE METASYSTEM, AND A CORRELATION BETWEEN THAT AND ITS RATE OF RECORPORATION.
SO IT'S GETTING STRONGER AND FASTER...
IN AN EXO-POD, YES.
GREAT. ADVISE MILITARY COMMAND ON MARS BASE AND CYBERTRON. I WANT ROUND-THE-CLOCK SURVEILLANCE AND ANALYSIS. PERCEPTOR, KEEP ME UPDATED AT ALL TIMES.
HE'S IN THERE... I KNOW HE IS. IF HE CAN, HE'LL TRY AND MAKE CONTACT.

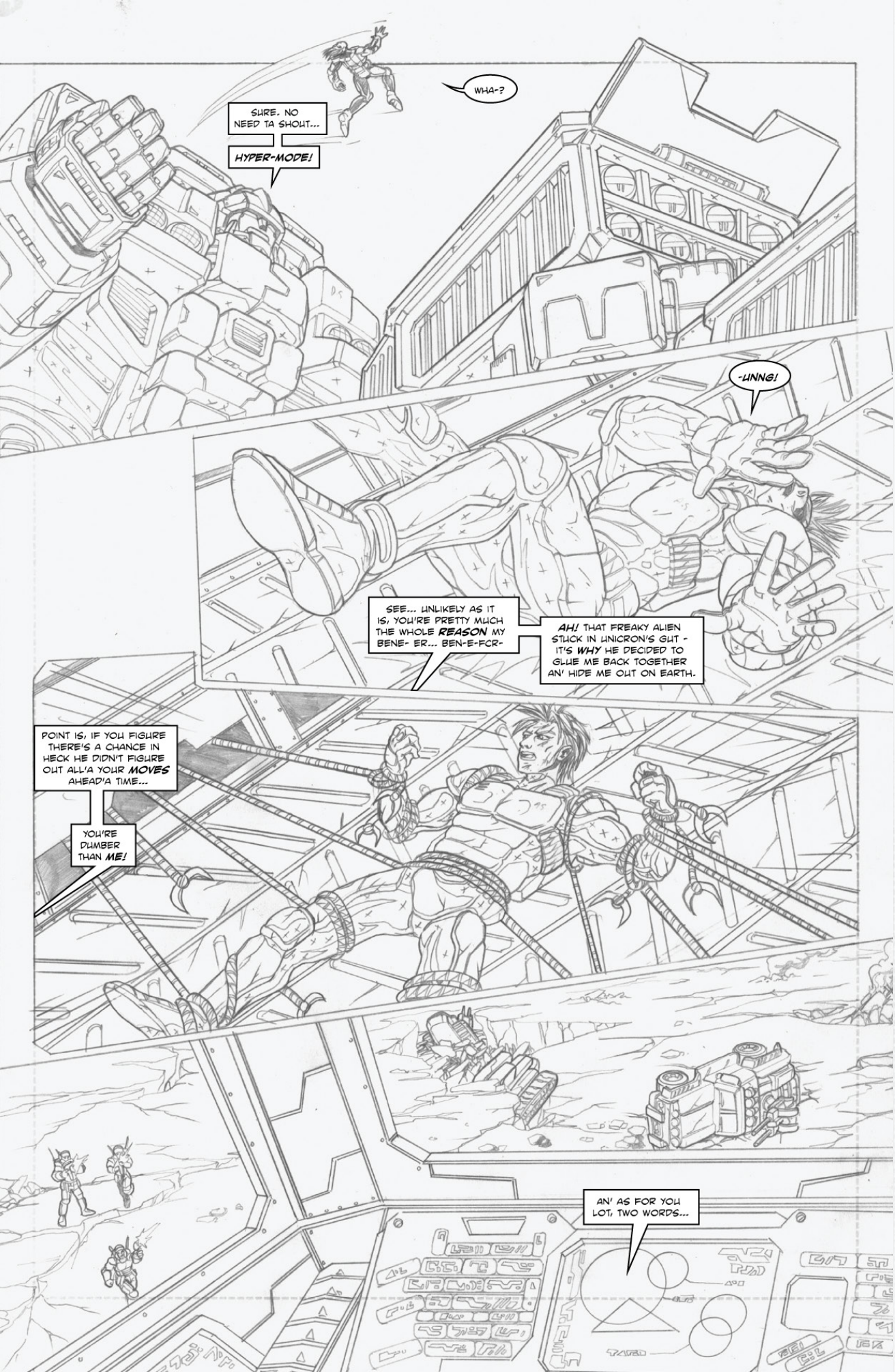

BY 'HE,' I ASSUME YOU MEAN OPTIMUS PRIME.
I... HESITATE TO THROW LOGIC AT YOUR CONVICTION, JETFIRE, BUT EVEN ASSUMING MEGATRON'S CRYPTIC 'BELLY OF THE BEAST' MESSAGE DOES MEAN PRIME IS WITHIN UNICRON, SOMEWHERE...
... THE CHANCE OF HIM STILL BEING ALIVE IS INFINTESSIMALLY SMALL.
YOU KNOW, PERCEPTOR, I'VE BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME AND I'VE SEEN MORE THAN MY SHARE OF HARSH REALITIES. I DON'T STILL BELIEVE IN A WHOLE LOT...
... BUT I DO BELIEVE IN OPTIMUS PRIME.
OF COURSE. ALL SENSORS ARE AT MAXIMUM.
YOU REALISE, DON'T YOU, JETFIRE...
... THAT TO ESTABLISH A SPACE BRIDGE PORTAL IN THE LOCALITY OF UNICRON, OR PRETTY MUCH ANYWHERE, WE'D NEED TO OPEN A NULL-HOLE IN THE PLANETARY SHIELD?
WHICH THE TERRORCONS ARE SURE TO EXPLOIT!
IRONHIDE - HOW'S THAT 'STOPPER' COMING ALONG?
WORKING ON THAT.

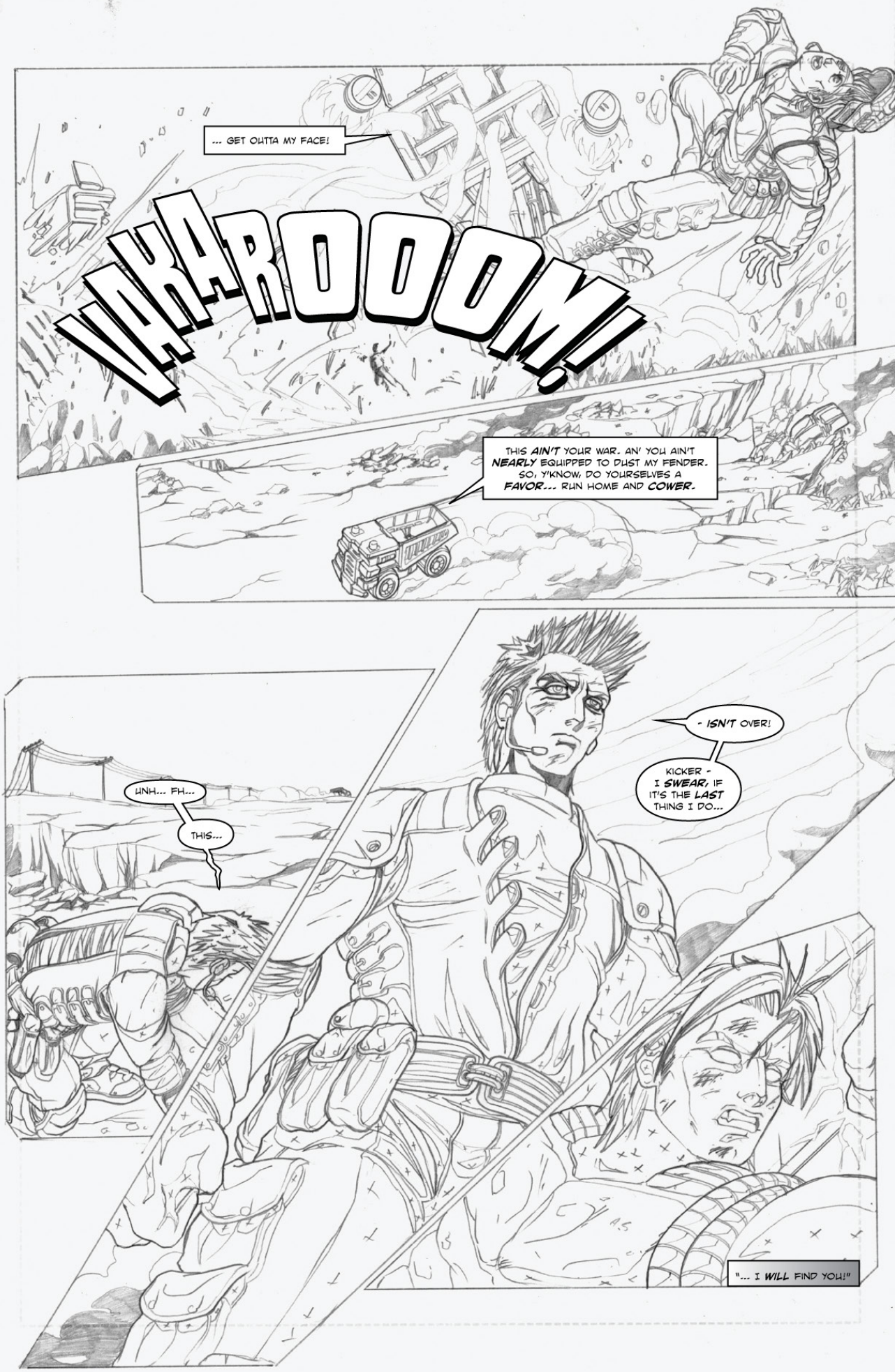

ALMOST THERE. THE ARTIFICIAL MATRIX IS CAUSING US A FEW LAST-MINUTE HEADACHES, BUT OTHERWISE WE'RE READY TO ROLL.
'BOTS AND 'CONS, I GIVE YOU...
... OMEGA SUPREME!
GREAT, IRONHIDE, GREAT! KEEP ME POSTED...
EMERGENCY TRANSMISSION - IT'S RAD!

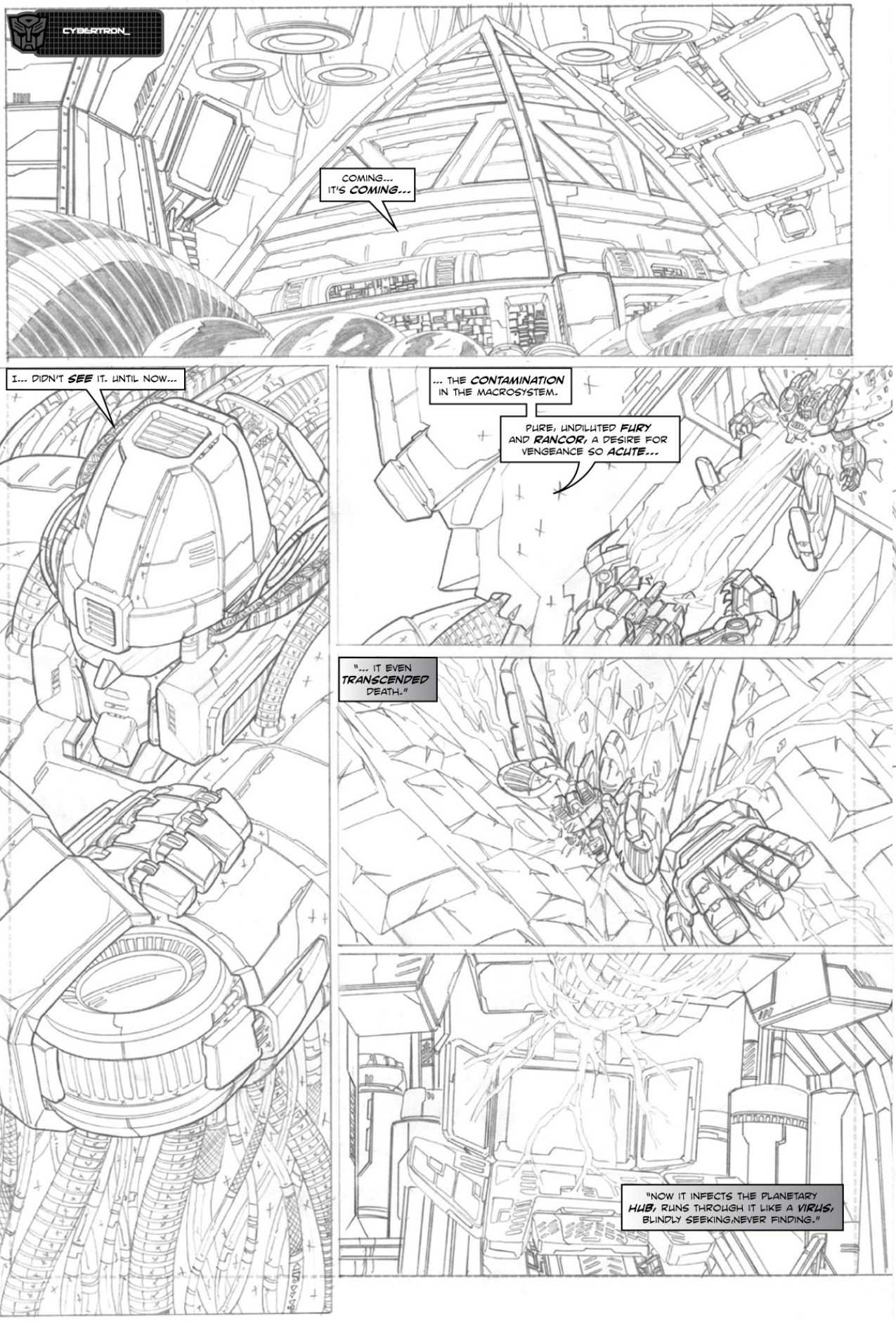

... I REPEAT-ZZRK-DER ATTACK. IT'S-WLLLUH-AND WE'RE NOT-FFZZ-
CAN YOU CLEAR IT UP?
NEGATIVE. SOME KIND OF LOCAL INTERFERENCE.
RED ALERT - WHO'VE WE GOT IN THE AREA?
LET'S SEE... GRIMLOCK AND SWOOP ARE IN SECTOR BLUE-FOUR. THEY'RE THE CLOSEST.
BLUE-FOUR? THAT THE BEST WE CAN DO?
OKAY, LOOK - GET THEM ROLLING. PRONTO! IF ALTERENERGY IS UNDER ATTACK, IT CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING...
"... KICKER!"
I'LL TELL YOU THE SAME THING I TOLD MY LAST ARDENT SUITORS -
KAAR!
- I'M NOT THAT - KIND OF BOY!
KAAM!

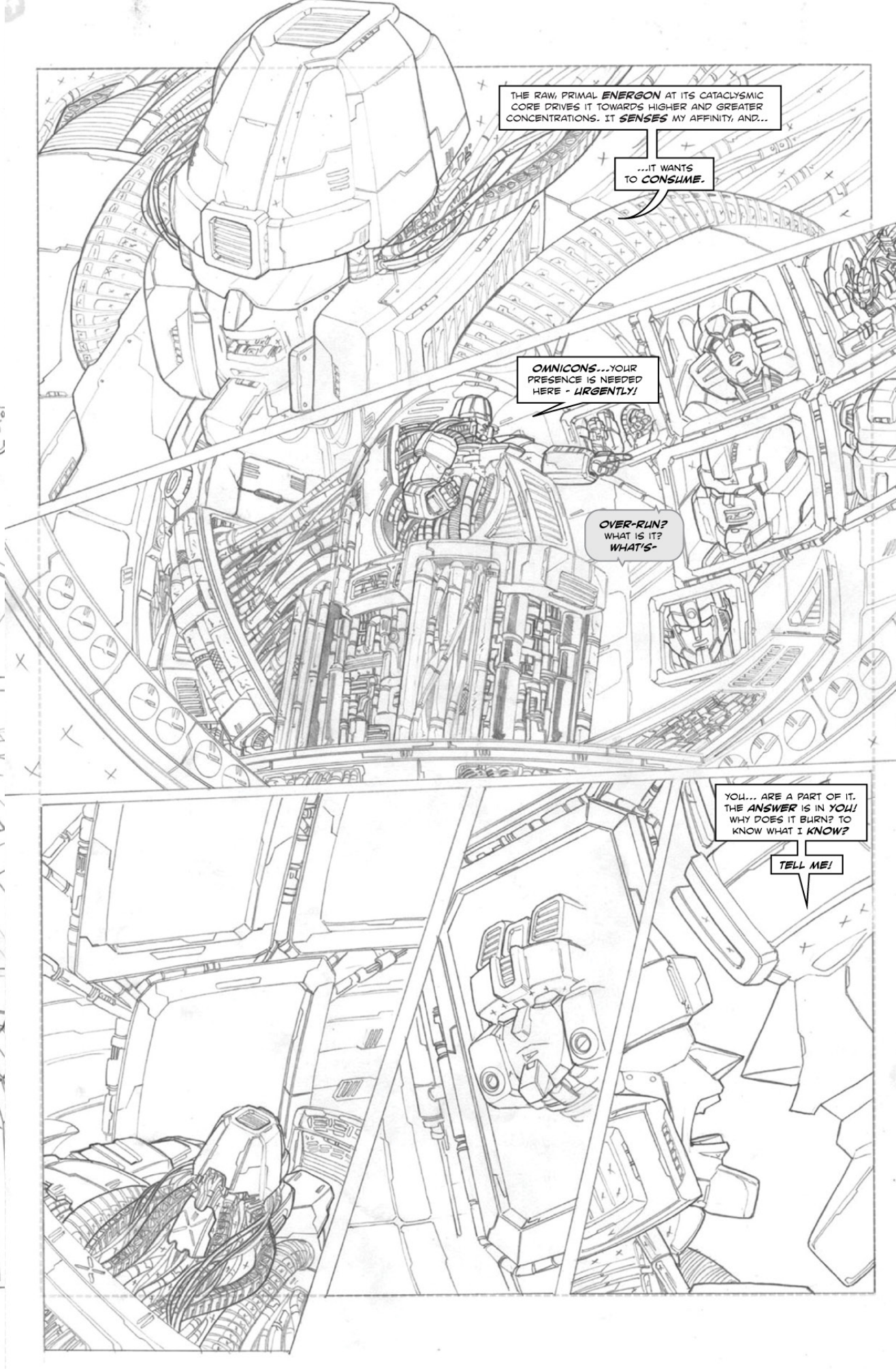
THAT... KIND OF TICKLED.
THEM ENERGON SHIMMIES'A YOURS ARE PRETTY FANCY. BUT, HEY, HERE'S A NEWSFLASH...
HN! HEY...
... STOP DOING THAT!
... THEY DON'T MEAN SPIT TO ME. NOT SINCE MY FANCY UPGRADE.
SO BE GOOD ROADKILL AND JUST LET ME SCRAPE YOU OFFA THE TARMAC...
DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
KEEP IT TIGHT AND FOCUSED, TEAM. TARGET THE VULNERABLE AREAS WE WORKED ON WITH THE AUTOBOTS.
AND WATCH THAT FRIENDLY FIRE! KICKER'S AS IN HARM'S WAY AS IT GETS.

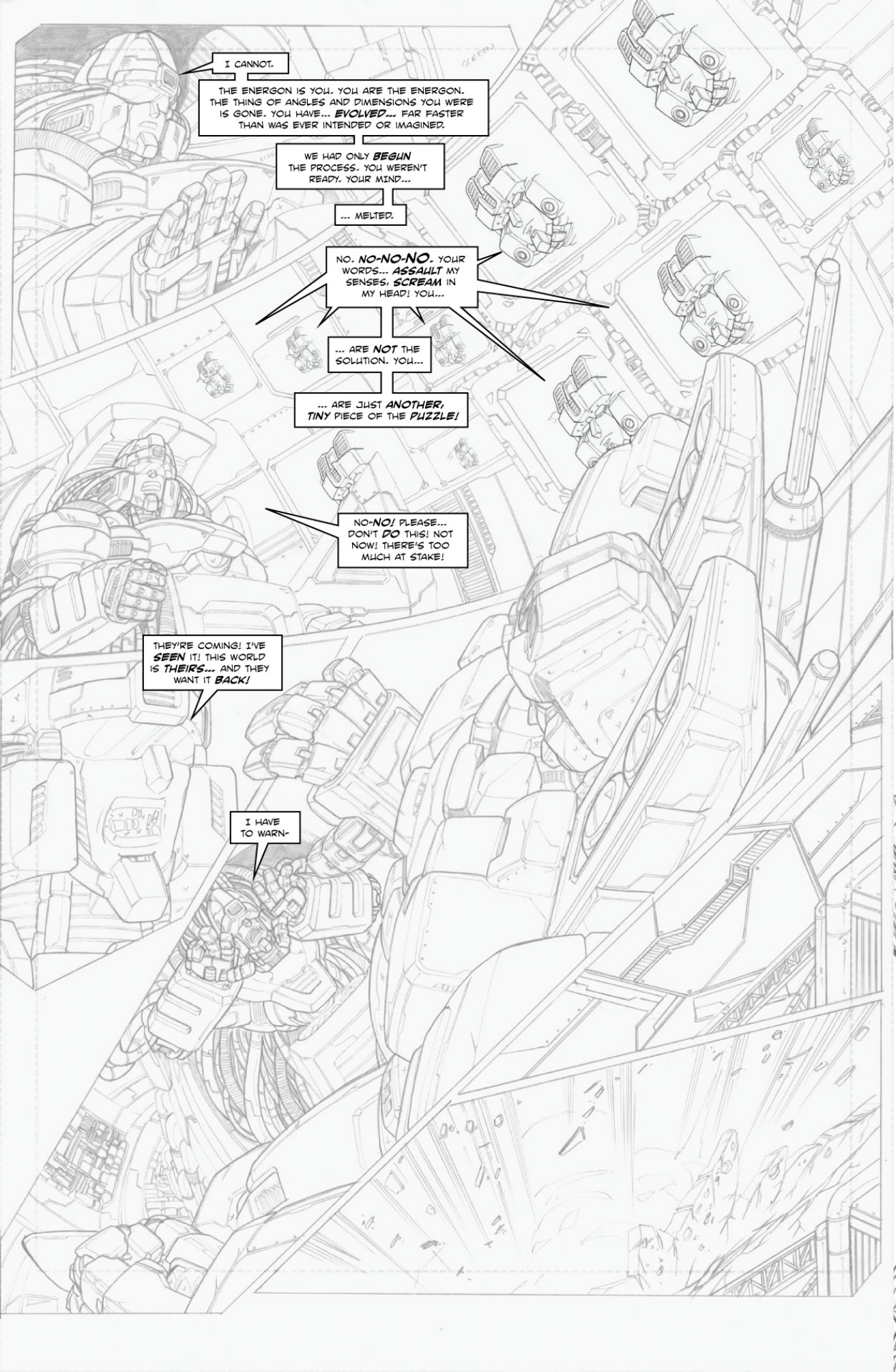
THINKIN' 'BOUT IT, YOU -GH- PROBABLY DON'T KNOW WHO I AM. SO, HEY... HOW'D YA DO.
I'M DEMOLISHOR...
IT'S ONE OF THOSE 'DOES-WHAT-IT-SAYS-ON-THE-TIN' KIND OF NAMES...
CLANK!!
LOOK OUT!
CAN'T-
GNNH!
UNH-HH! YOU BIG HUNK OF JUNK! WHY CAN'T I HURT YOU?
LET ME... GO!

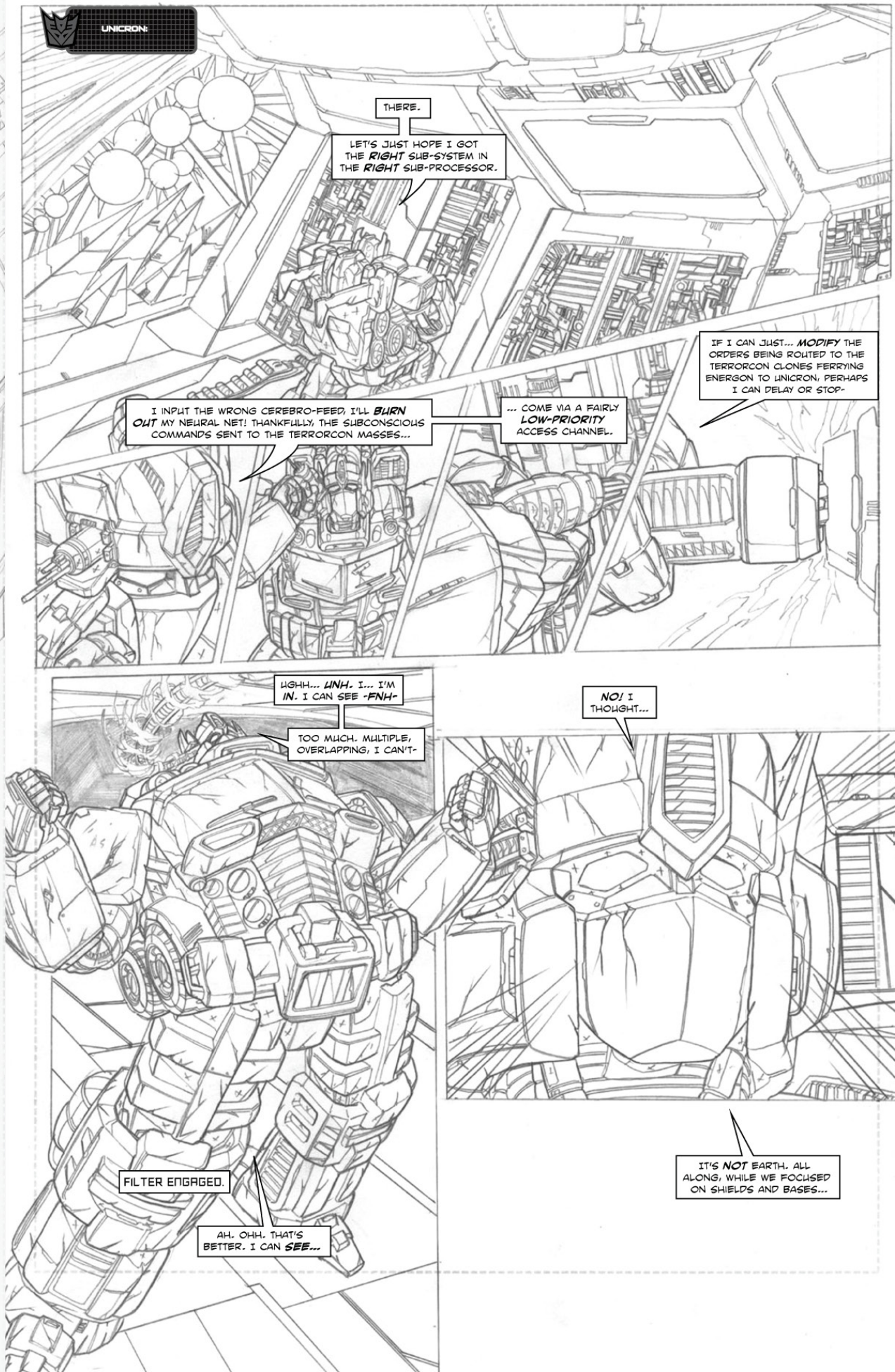

WHA-?
SURE. NO NEED TA SHOUT...
HYPER-MODE!
-UNNG!
SEE... UNLIKELY AS IT IS, YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH THE WHOLE REASON MY BENE- ER... BEN-E-FCR-
AH! THAT FREAKY ALIEN STUCK IN UNICRON'S GUT - IT'S WHY HE DECIDED TO GLUE ME BACK TOGETHER AN' HIDE ME OUT ON EARTH.
POINT IS, IF YOU FIGURE THERE'S A CHANCE IN HECK HE DIDN'T FIGURE OUT ALL'A YOUR MOVES AHEAD'A TIME...
YOU'RE DUMBER THAN ME!
AN' AS FOR YOU LOT, TWO WORDS...


... GET OUTTA MY FACE!
VKA-ROOOM!!
THIS AIN'T YOUR WAR. AN' YOU AIN'T NEARLY EQUIPPED TO DUST MY FENDER. SO, Y'KNOW, DO YOURSELVES A FAVOR... RUN HOME AND COWER.
UNH... FH...
THIS...
- ISN'T OVER!
KICKER - I SWEAR, IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO...
"... I WILL FIND YOU!"


CYBERTRON_
COMING... IT'S COMING...
I... DIDN'T SEE IT. UNTIL NOW...
... THE CONTAMINATION IN THE MACROSYSTEM.
PURE, UNDILUTED FURY AND RANCOR, A DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE SO ACUTE...
"... IT EVEN TRANSCENDED DEATH."
"NOW IT INFECTS THE PLANETARY HUB, RUNS THROUGH IT LIKE A VIRUS, BLINDLY SEEKING;NEVER FINDING."


THE RAW, PRIMAL ENERGON AT ITS CATACLYSMIC CORE DRIVES IT TOWARDS HIGHER AND GREATER CONCENTRATIONS. IT SENSES MY AFFINITY, AND...
...IT WANTS TO CONSUME.
OMNICONS...YOUR PRESENCE IS NEEDED HERE - URGENTLY!
OVER-RUN? WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S-
YOU... ARE A PART OF IT. THE ANSWER IS IN YOU! WHY DOES IT BURN? TO KNOW WHAT I KNOW?
TELL ME!


I CANNOT.
THE ENERGON IS YOU. YOU ARE THE ENERGON. THE THING OF ANGLES AND DIMENSIONS YOU WERE IS GONE. YOU HAVE... EVOLVED... FAR FASTER THAN WAS EVER INTENDED OR IMAGINED.
WE HAD ONLY BEGUN THE PROCESS. YOU WEREN'T READY. YOUR MIND...
... MELTED.
NO. NO-NO-NO. YOUR WORDS... ASSAULT MY SENSES, SCREAM IN MY HEAD! YOU...
... ARE NOT THE SOLUTION. YOU...
... ARE JUST ANOTHER, TINY PIECE OF THE PUZZLE!
NO-NO! PLEASE... DON'T DO THIS! NOT NOW! THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE!
THEY'RE COMING! I'VE SEEN IT! THIS WORLD IS THEIRS... AND THEY WANT IT BACK!
I HAVE TO WARN-


UNICRON:
THERE.
LET'S JUST HOPE I GOT THE RIGHT SUB-SYSTEM IN THE RIGHT SUB-PROCESSOR.
IF I CAN JUST... MODIFY THE ORDERS BEING ROUTED TO THE TERRORCON CLONES FERRYING ENERGON TO UNICRON, PERHAPS I CAN DELAY OR STOP-
... COME VIA A FAIRLY LOW-PRIORITY ACCESS CHANNEL.
I INPUT THE WRONG CEREBRO-FEED, I'LL BURN OUT MY NEURAL NET! THANKFULLY, THE SUBCONSCIOUS COMMANDS SENT TO THE TERRORCON MASSES...
UGHH... UNH. I... I'M IN. I CAN SEE -FNH-
TOO MUCH. MULTIPLE, OVERLAPPING, I CAN'T-
NO! I THOUGHT...
IT'S NOT EARTH. ALL ALONG, WHILE WE FOCUSED ON SHIELDS AND BASES...
FILTER ENGAGED.
AH. OHH. THAT'S BETTER. I CAN SEE...

"... ANOTHER WORLD WAS DYING!"
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE...

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